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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Smith et al. Art Unit: 2304
Serial No. : 08/549,380 Examiner: M. Zanelli
Filed : October 27, 1995
For : FULLY AUTOMATED VEHICLE DISPATCHING, MONITORING AND BILLING

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, DC 20231

DECLARATION OF CHRIS C. SMITH UNDER RULE 132


I, Chris C. Smith, of 5162 Fairway Oaks Drive,
Windemere, FL 34786, hereby declare and state:

1. I am the first inventor named in the above-identified U.S. Patent Application, and am submitting this declaration in support of the patentability of the claims of that application.

2. For the past twenty years, I have worked in the ambulance service industry, through which time I have learned the needs and requirements of this industry and the various automated systems used in that industry to facilitate the dispatching and control of vehicles.

3. In all automated systems with which I am familiar, a human dispatcher is an integral part of the dispatch function. Existing systems presuppose reliance upon a human dispatcher, and

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, postage prepaid in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20231 on: May 27, 1997


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have the purpose of rapidly and efficiently delivering information to a human dispatcher to facilitate human decisionmaking.

4. In my opinion, the computing power and technological innovations that are now readily available, are being misused in these existing vehicle management systems. Specifically, while extensive effort and technological innovation is and has been applied to collecting and manipulating vehicle status information, this stream of information is brought to a virtual standstill at the point where it is delivered to the human dispatcher for decisionmaking.

5. My invention, which is disclosed and claimed in the above-referenced U.S. Patent Application, takes a radically different approach. Specifically, my invention provides a framework for a truly automated vehicle management system, which does not rely on human involvement in vehicle management, whether as part of dispatching, monitoring, system status management, or any other normal vehicle management function.

6. I believe my invention represents a significant advancement over those systems that have come before, by its innovation of removing the human element in vehicle management.

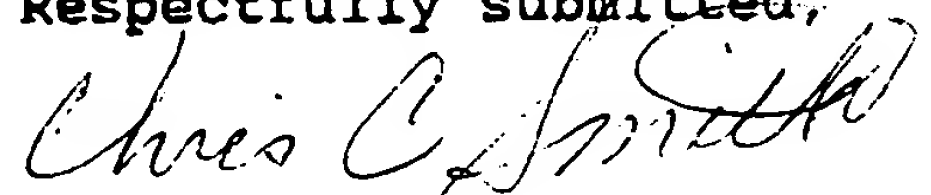
7. I believe that my extensive, twenty years of experience, has been fundamental in my success in envisioning and implementing a truly automated dispatching process. Given the complex, arcane processes that drive the ambulance services industry in particular, without my unique knowledge and hands-on

experience, in my opinion it would be virtually impossible to envision how a truly automated vehicle management system could operate.

8. In the recent past, I have had several occasions to discuss concepts of my invention with persons of substantial experience in the ambulance services industry. After I describe my system, the two most common responses I have received are (a.) failure to understand the concept, or (b.) an assertion that fully automated vehicle management is not possible. The few people I have met who came to understand my invention, and accept its feasibility, have been enthusiastic about the promise it holds for the future development of vehicle management.

9. All statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true. These statements are made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code.

Respectfully submitted,



Chris C. Smith